

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Bloomington  
other names/site number VDHR File # 054-0006

**2. Location**

street & number Bloomington Lane Not for publication N/A  
city or town Louisa vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Louisa County code 109 zip code 23093

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined eligible for the  
National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the National Register  
     removed from the National Register  
     other (explain):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

U. S. Department of the Interior  
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Bloomington  
Louisa County, Virginia

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 5            | 0               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 5            | 0               | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Cat: DOMESTIC | Sub: Single dwelling                   |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Processing; tobacco barn          |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Animal facility; horse barn       |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Storage; corn crib                |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Secondary structure; storage shed |

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Cat: DOMESTIC | Sub: Vacant/Not in Use |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Vacant/Not in Use |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Vacant/Not in Use |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Vacant/Not in Use |
| AGRICULTURE   | Sub: Vacant/Not in Use |

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Southern Colonial

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Foundation | STONE; BRICK            |
| Roof       | METAL: Tin              |
| Walls      | WOOD: Log; weatherboard |
| Other      | _____                   |
|            | _____                   |

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**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT; ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance** ca. 1790-1900

**Significant Dates** 1790; 1832; 1900

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☒ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Louisa County Historical Society

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 7.050

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   |    |              |          |   |              |          |
|---|----|--------------|----------|---|--------------|----------|
| A | 18 | 4207120      | 237120   | C |              |          |
|   |    | Zone Easting | Northing |   | Zone Easting | Northing |
| B |    |              |          | D |              |          |

☐ See continuation sheet.

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Nancy W. Kraus

Organization: First & Main. LLC

date March 29, 2004

street & number: 6224 New Harvard Lane

telephone (804) 304-6053

city or town Glen Allen

state VA zip code 23059

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Cosby R. Woolfolk & Stephanie M. Chick

street & number 361 Halls Store Road

telephone (540) 894-5372

city or town Mineral

state

VA

zip code

23117

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The property known as Bloomington is located approximately two-and-one-half miles southeast of Louisa Courthouse. The antebellum farmhouse is situated at the end of Bloomington Lane, a winding dirt road that turns eastward off State Route 646. Bloomington is perched on a ridge of land overlooking Beaver Creek to the west and a spring-fed pond to the east. The seven-acre parcel is pastoral and unspoiled. Gently sloping fields, mature trees and boxwoods surround the dwelling and a small collection of outbuildings. Bloomington is composed of three distinctive architectural blocks. The dwelling evolved into its present form from an original two-room, split-log dwelling dating to ca. 1790. The main block, ca. 1832, is a two-story, three-bay structure with steeply-pitched gable roof constructed over a raised brick basement. A one-story, gable-roofed addition was attached to the north wall of the main block ca. 1900. The entire dwelling is sheathed in weatherboard siding. Notable exterior features include two exterior end chimneys, a combination of nine-over-six and six-over-six sash-style wood windows, boxed cornice, and standing-seam metal roof. The front façade is also distinguished by a pair of plain shed-roofed front porches. Historic outbuildings include a horse barn, a corn crib, tool shed, and tobacco barn with heavy corner posts, beams and diagonal bracing. Bloomington is important because the dwelling preserves an increasingly rare example of eighteenth-to-early-nineteenth-century English frame construction which found expression in early Southern Colonial style. Bloomington is also significant as one of the oldest dwellings in central Louisa County. The dwelling retains a high degree of historic fabric and integrity.

**Bloomington Inventory**

|      |              |                                |                        |
|------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| I.   | Dwelling     | ca. 1790; ca. 1832; ca.1900    | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING. |
| II.  | Tobacco Barn | late 19 <sup>th</sup> century  | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING. |
| III. | Horse Barn   | early 19 <sup>th</sup> century | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING. |
| IV.  | Corn Crib    | late 19 <sup>th</sup> century  | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING. |
| V.   | Tool Shed    | late 19 <sup>th</sup> century  | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING. |

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## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The architectural form of the oldest portion of Bloomington is an important representative of the English frame or English house, terms employed by seventeenth-and-early-eighteenth-century colonists to describe well-constructed frame structures: "Chesapeake builders thought of an English house as one with a tightly fitting sawn frame secured with mortise and tenon joints...Roof framing often consisted of a series of principal rafters that were tied together by girders or cross-beams."<sup>1</sup> The plain and simple house of the English yeomen dating to the late-sixteenth-century served as the model for colonial residences.<sup>2</sup> Early colonial houses also manifested various characteristics of the late medieval form: steeply-pitched gable roof, massive chimneys, symmetrical arrangement of openings, two-room plan, and often one room deep.<sup>3</sup> In New England, chimneys were more often centrally placed whereas in the south, end chimneys were more common.

Louisa County is dotted with a rich collection of early colonial dwellings that manifest in form and detail their relationship to the English frame house. Two historians are especially notable for their useful documentation of the significant resources of Louisa County. In 1972, Henry Glassie published Folk Housing in Middle Virginia, a detailed survey and analysis of 338 surviving country dwellings around the rural centers of Orchid and Gum Springs in Louisa and Goochland Counties. And in 1979, Claudia Anderson Chisholm and Ellen Gray Lillie published Old Home Places of Louisa County. Both resources support the significance of Bloomington in understanding the early roots and evolution of the building styles and techniques typical of rural architecture in Louisa County.

Bloomington is located on the northeast side of Route 646, between Louisa Courthouse and Yanceyville, at the end of a mile-long dirt road. The main house and four surviving dependencies are perched at the top of a broad hill overlooking Beaver Creek. The historic house is composed of three distinct parts. The oldest section, ca. 1790, is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay wing, constructed of split logs over a rubble-stone foundation. This west wing, approximately 22' by 26' in plan, has a steeply-pitched gable roof with standing-seam metal sheathing and one central dormer window facing south and another facing north. A substantial, double-shouldered exterior chimney is located on the west wall. The lower portion of the chimney is constructed of rubble stone while the upper portion has been rebuilt of red brick laid in common bond. The off-center placement of the chimney is particularly curious and quite uncommon.<sup>4</sup> On the first floor, there are two piercings on each elevation. The front and rear egress doors are aligned. Fenestration consists of 6/6 double-hung wood windows with assymetrically molded surrounds. The second-story dormers exhibit 4/4 sash windows with thick muntins. A plain porch with shed roof extends across the primary south façade. The entire wing is covered with weatherboard siding.

Although the interior plan of the log cabin wing has been re-worked over time, an original two-room

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plan is suggested. The front entrance door leads into a well-proportioned parlor with a large fireplace in the northwest corner. The front door displays two raised, vertical panels with a porcelain knob in the center rail. On the east wall, non-load-bearing partition walls were constructed to create a closet and a passageway with two shallow steps into the main house. There is evidence on both the first and second floors that a narrow stair leading to the half-story above was originally located along the southeast wall of the parlor. Although the fire-box in the parlor has been re-built with modern masonry units, the original wood mantelpiece is mostly intact. The fireplace surround consists of a plain architrave, frieze, pilasters, and molded cornice shelf.

The secondary room of the log cabin has been sub-divided, but it was most likely one open space at the time of construction. This room also has a corner fireplace, smaller in size than the fireplace in the main parlor, but proportional to the room. This fireplace retains its historic fabric including brick and stone firebox and mantelpiece with simple architrave, frieze, pilasters, and molded cornice shelf.

Preliminary to restoration, the owners of Bloomington have recently removed all of the sheetrock from the split-log walls. The sturdy hewn logs have wattle and daub chinking. Other notable elements on the interior of the west wing of Bloomington include wide-board heart pine flooring, molded baseboards, and asymmetrical, banded door and window surrounds. The half-story above consists of one open room with a central fireplace on the west wall. The mantelpiece, heart pine flooring and millwork match the details on the first floor.

This west wing of Bloomington is consistent in form with "the rectangular cabin" (XY) prototype, described by Henry Glassie, that is well represented among the earliest architecture surviving in Louisa County. Glassie's documentation suggests that this fundamental form appears most frequently in middle Virginia between 1720 and 1760, although the form persisted in construction between 1760 and 1810.<sup>5</sup> A date of ca. 1790 is assigned to the west wing based on its construction detail, local testimony, and land tax records.<sup>6</sup> The current owners and their relatives who have owned the house and its surrounding acreage since 1970 believe the west wing to be approximately two-hundred-and-twenty-years old. In the attic, heavy corner post-and-beam framing with diagonal bracing indicates an early date. Framing members are hewn with wooden draw-bore pins.

The main house, ca. 1832, is a two-story frame structure built over a raised basement laid in six-course American bond. The foundation is pierced with three-light, rectangular wood windows. The rubblestone of the west wing and the brickwork of the main house have been parged in an attempt to unify the dissimilar foundation materials. A broad, free-standing end chimney, constructed of red brick in common bond, is centered on the east wall. Also on the east wall, a small, shed-roofed addition covers an exterior stair to the basement. The main house features plain weatherboard siding, stepped trim around the doors and windows, gable roof with standing-seam metal sheathing,



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and plain, boxed cornice.

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Centered on the three-bay front façade is a one-story porch with shed roof, paired square wood columns, and simple rail. The porch shelters a five-panel entrance door. Windows on the first and second stories are not in alignment. First-floor double-hung wood windows are 9/6 lights while the second-floor windows are 6/6 lights. Tiny 4-light windows, visible just below the roof peak on both the east and west walls, provide light to the third-story attic. Currently, the windows are adorned with modern vinyl shutters. The historic nineteenth-century louvered, pegged wood shutters are stored in the horse barn. They appear to be restorable.

The interior floor plan is an early form of the hall-and-parlor type in which the front entrance door leads directly into the formal community space. Glassie notes that the earliest houses in Louisa County were designed “so that one entered immediately into the center of the action of its inhabitants”.<sup>7</sup> In later houses, incorporation of a central entrance hallway and the reversed position of the stairway to the rear of the hall reflected a greater concern for privacy.

The parlor at Bloomington is dominated by a broad Greek Revival-style fireplace. The wood mantelpiece features plain pilasters with unembellished frieze and shelf. Opposite the fireplace, a door leads into the hall which has been modified to serve not only as a passageway to the stairway at the front of the dwelling, but now also to the dining room and kitchen addition to the rear, and to the original west wing. The open-well stair, positioned at the front of the hall, features walnut newel posts, rounded handrail and turned balusters. A low door beneath the stair descends to the basement. Moldings and other details in the main block display the craftsmanship of a finish carpenter familiar with the Greek Revival idiom. Handsomely-crafted millwork in the hall-and-parlor block includes six-panel doors, molded baseboards, chair rail, and picture molding. Windows and doors display asymmetrical, stepped surrounds. The heart pine flooring is fabricated from broad boards, laid in random widths. Secondary egress doors dating to a later period exhibit five panels and narrow transoms.

The hall and parlor retain their high ceiling planes, over nine feet. Walls and ceilings are plaster over riven lath, suggesting an early nineteenth-century date of construction. “Until the nineteenth-century, almost all plaster lath was riven rather than sawn.”<sup>8</sup> A sample nail removed from the lath at Bloomington is hand wrought and hand headed, an example of the clasp, T-headed type, hand forged in America between 1720 and 1790.<sup>9</sup> Because there were no naileries in Louisa County or in adjacent Goochland County until after 1810, it seems likely that the process of hand forging nails persisted in those counties into the early part of the nineteenth-century.<sup>10</sup>

The third distinct section was appended to the rear of the main block, ca. 1900. A clumsy entrance hallway provides transition between the main house and the dining-room-kitchen annex. The one-

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story rear addition, constructed over a low brick foundation, features a low-pitched gable roof with flared eaves and a deep overhang that shelters an elongated porch and an enclosed pantry/utility  
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room in the northeast corner. Standard features and finishes in the rear annex include five-panel doors with iron rimlocks, plaster over sawn lath, tongue-and-groove wainscoting, molded chair rail, stepped door and window trim, and random-width heart pine floors. A shed dormer was added sometime later to the second floor at the intersection of the three rooflines. The diminutive space shelters a modern bathroom.

Historic outbuildings include a tobacco barn, a horse barn, a corn crib, and a tool shed. The tobacco barn is located mid-way between the driveway off Bloomington Lane and the house. The corn crib and horse barn are placed on a perpendicular line off the west façade of the dwelling. The tool shed is situated approximately seventy-five yards behind the kitchen annex. All of the dependencies are similarly constructed with post-and-beam framing, gable roofs with standing seam metal sheathing, and vertical weatherboard siding. The tobacco barn has a shed-roof addition, apparently used for storage, on the north wall. The tobacco barn is an excellent example of the English barn form used in central Virginia for stables. It is nearly identical in form and detail to the tobacco barn in the photograph on page 173 of Glassie's book.

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### **Summary Statement of Significance**

Bloomington, an antebellum farmhouse in Louisa County, Virginia, is linked to the Johnson family, one of the earliest and most politically prominent families during the colonization of the county. The property is an excellent representative of a surviving collection of frame structures linked to the early development of the county and to the broad pattern of colonization in Virginia. It is one of the oldest dwellings in central Louisa County. Bloomington is composed of three distinctive architectural blocks: an original two-room, split-log dwelling (ca. 1790), a two-story, three-bay main block with steeply-pitched gable roof (ca. 1832), and a one-story, gable-roofed addition (ca. 1900) off the main block. The house retains a high degree of integrity.

### **Criteria Statement**

Bloomington is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic places under Criterion A in the area of exploration/settlement because of its association with the settlement and early history of Louisa County. It is also eligible under Criterion C because the evolution of the residence reflects the kinds of dwellings constructed for small farmers in Louisa County in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and because it preserves an increasingly rare example of eighteenth-to-early-nineteenth-century frame construction which found expression in early Southern Colonial architectural style.

### **Historical Background**

The evolution of the country residence known as Bloomington is intertwined with the history of Louisa County and is representative of the rural architecture associated with the county's predominantly agricultural economy. Louisa County was first settled in the early 1700's by families moving north and west from present-day Hanover and New Kent Counties. Louisa County was officially established in 1742, carved from Hanover County, when the population grew large enough to support a courthouse. Located 50 miles from Richmond and 30 miles from Charlottesville, Louisa Courthouse served as a stop-over for travelers. The earliest houses constructed in Louisa County were typically of frame construction because it was difficult to transport materials and supplies into the landlocked area of Piedmont Virginia. Although the establishment of the Louisa Railroad 1836 improved access in and out of the county, the population remained relatively constant, and the general rural quality was sustained well into the twentieth century. The survival of a large number of historic houses may be explained, in part, by the slow development of the county. The town of Louisa was incorporated in 1873 with a population of 250. The population remained nearly constant for more than a century. Even in 1970, there were only 633 residents in the town.<sup>11</sup>

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Situated on gently rolling farmland between State Route 646 and Beaver Creek, Bloomington is situated upon and surrounded by acreage that was part of a land patent, 400 acres on both sides of Beaver Creek, granted on June 26, 1731, to Thomas Hart.<sup>12</sup> Early in the eighteenth century, numerous land patents were granted for acreage in what was then Hanover County. Before Louisa County was formed from the western part of Hanover County, many larger properties were subdivided or sold with no official record of the transaction. As a result, it is often difficult to follow the trail of property ownership.<sup>13</sup> By 1787, a vast parcel of the land bordering Beaver Creek was owned by John and Abigail Mayo, prominent citizens of Richmond, Virginia. In the 1787 census of Louisa County, John Mayo was one of the four largest land owners in the county with holdings of more than 3000 acres. Portions of the Mayo's property were sold between 1804 and 1816, first to Robert Freeman and later to David Johnson, son of the Louisa County sheriff.

The Johnson family were among the earliest and the most prominent settlers of Louisa County. Of English descent, Thomas Johnson and William Johnson were both justices and Burgesses. Supporters of the movement for American independence, both Johnsons were close friends of Patrick Henry.<sup>14</sup> Thomas Johnson was a representative at the Constitutional Convention of 1775-1776. A prominent resident of Louisa County, he served as Sheriff in the 1760's, and he was a member of the county's Committee of Safety before the Revolutionary War.<sup>15</sup> One of the earliest maps to delineate the boundaries of Louisa County was executed by John Henry in 1770. The only property owner identified on the map is the Johnson family, identified as a family "with a great deal of power in Louisa County".<sup>16</sup> In 1762, Thomas married Elizabeth Meriwether Johnson and they built Roundabout Castle where they had ten children. When the Louisa County Land Tax Book was recorded in 1782, Thomas Johnson owned 1143 acres and his wife Elizabeth Meriwether Johnson owned 220 acres.

David Johnson, the earliest owner to be associated with the property called Bloomington, was the seventh child and third son of Thomas "Sheriff" and Elizabeth Johnson. Born in 1778, David apparently received at least 297 acres of land on Beaver Creek from his father before his father's death in 1803.<sup>17</sup> In the will of Thomas Johnson, he specified that David was to receive slaves, "land not taken into consideration here".<sup>18</sup> Evidently, Thomas Johnson had already provided for the disposition of his land holdings before his death. Upon her death, David's mother Elizabeth Meriwether Johnson willed to him only one slave named Wilson. Except for a few small concessions that provided for the care of her servants, the balance of her estate was willed to her daughters and their heirs. If her sons had already received a portion of their father's land holdings, Elizabeth's will may be viewed as an attempt to provide some parity for their daughters.<sup>19</sup> David was named executor of his mother's will, along with her sons-in-law John Poindexter, Joseph Winston, William Quarles, and Charles Barret. The role Thomas Johnson played in the Revolutionary War may have

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caused difficulty for his wife after his death for she states in her will, "I among others was sued as executrix of my husband Thomas Johnson (sheriff) in sundry suits by British creditors and have  
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expended a considerable sum of money in my defense which I think I ought to recover and feeling myself under great obligation to the Reverend John Poindexter for his assistance in shaking off said suits I give him all that he may be able to recover back of said money expended."

In addition to the land from his father, David Johnson purchased from Robert and Sarah Freeman, for the sum of \$2308.50, 513 acres on both sides of Beaver Creek on October 12, 1812.<sup>20</sup> It is noted in the transfer document "with appurtenances." Four years later on July 19, 1816, David Johnson paid \$400 to John and Abbey Mayo for 100 acres on Beaver Creek.<sup>21</sup> It is noted in the transfer document that this acreage was adjoined to another parcel to the south also owned by David Johnson.

In 1805, David Johnson married Mary Tinsley, daughter of Colonel Thomas Tinsley. In the Johnson family register, it is noted that the couple was married in Richmond by the Reverend John D. Blair.<sup>22</sup> It is unclear whether they took up residence in an existing dwelling on the property, perhaps in the log wing of the current house, or whether they constructed and resided in the main house of Bloomington. The riven lath and hand-forged nails suggest a date of construction for the main house early in the nineteenth-century that may coincide with the tenure of David and Mary Tinsley at Bloomington. It is likely the substantial rubblestone chimney and the related log cabin were in their current location when David and Mary Tinsley Johnson resided at Bloomington.

What can be documented about David and Mary Tinsley Johnson is that they are the first residents to be associated with "Bloomington"; they had seven children between 1806 and 1819; they were prosperous enough to purchase at least two substantial land tracts on or adjacent to Beaver Creek to augment their land holdings. It is likely that David Johnson was involved in farming because "the economy in Louisa County in the years 1765-1812 was totally controlled by agriculture."<sup>23</sup> The 1820 census of Goochland and Louisa counties recorded that 6909 people, or 94% of the working population, were engaged in agriculture. Further evidence that David Johnson was likely engaged in agriculture is that Robert Yancey, one of David Johnson's neighbors, made this bequest in his will of June 13, 1808: "to friend David Johnson, Spanish ram and ewe."<sup>24</sup>

Dr. Frederick Anderson Perkins, a Louisa County physician, was the second person to be associated with Bloomington. Son of Robert and Kitty Anderson of Wyndcroft, he married Ann Maria Johnson, daughter of Thomas (the fourth son of Sheriff Thomas Johnson and brother of David Johnson) and Ann Catherine Harriet Washington Johnson of Roundabout Castle. After their marriage in 1823, Frederick and Ann Maria Perkins either built or lived in Silver Springs on Route 630 south of Louisa Courthouse. In 1832, Dr. Perkins purchased a portion of the Bloomington land tract from William Gatt, Peter, and Lucy Ann Johnson, the children of David Johnson. Dr. Perkins

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and his wife either built or lived in an existing house on the property for eight years. When David's wife Mary Johnson died in 1840, Dr. Perkins purchased additional acreage that included the former Section 8 Page 9

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Johnson dwelling. Local historians suggest that the ca. 1790 log house and the larger main block may have been combined to form a single dwelling around this time.

Dr. Anderson lived at Bloomington for nearly forty-five years while serving as a country physician. He and Ann Marie Johnson Perkins had ten sons and one daughter. Three sons and their only daughter died in infancy. Two of their sons William and Lewis became physicians, but both died in their early twenties. Two other sons Frank and Nathaniel were lost in the Civil War, one on the battlefield and another of disease contracted in camp. Thomas, Robert and Physick Philip grew to adulthood. Jan Stark, heir of Physick Philip Johnson and great-great-great-granddaughter of Frederick and Ann Marie Perkins, has published at <http://trevilians.com/others/perkins.htm> a portion of the journal kept by Ann Marie during her years at Bloomington. The journal provides a fascinating personal account of the hardships and privations of the Perkins' lives at Bloomington. Her vivid descriptions related to the crops and orchard suggest that the Perkins family continued the farming endeavor of David and Mary Johnson. Ann Marie also recorded a large collection of recipes for organic dyes that suggest she was actively involved in farm-related enterprise. The 1864 map completed by the Confederate Corps of Engineers identify Dr. Perkin's substantial land parcel on Beaver Creek. The footprints of seven structures are detailed on the map. Two adjacent blocks coincide with the current location of Bloomington.<sup>25</sup>

Following the Civil War, Dr. Perkins experienced financial difficulties that forced him to sell Bloomington to Benjamin Henson and Charles Monroe Mills, partners in a lumber business.<sup>26</sup> Charles Mills purchased Henson's interest in the property. His three children Lula, Anna, and Eddie were born and reared at Bloomington. The children inherited the property, and in 1937, daughters Anna and Lula were interviewed at the house by Nancy Pate of the Works Progress Administration of Virginia.<sup>27</sup> Except for the described furnishings, the interviewer's description of the house remains accurate today, demonstrating how little it has changed in the past 67 years. Subsequent owners include John and Esther Palmer, K.B. and Irone Chappell, and Anderson Woolfolk and the Woolfolk Brothers Lumber Company. Ownership has recently passed to Stephanie M. Chick and Cosby R. Woolfolk who plan to restore and live in the house.

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## **10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is identified as tax parcel number TMS 57-11, DB 360-251, standing in the names of Nancy Ann Origer and Cosby Lee Woolfolk. The boundaries of the nominated parcel are outlined on the Plat of Survey identified as Lot 1; 7.050 acres. The Plat of Survey, dated 14 April 2003, is on file at the Louisa County Courthouse, Louisa, Virginia.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated property have been drawn according to the legally recorded boundary lines to encompass approximately seven acres of the original farmland and the full extent of the significant resources including the historic dwelling known as Bloomington and four dependencies. All structures on the nominated parcel are determined contributing. There are no other contributing structures, buildings, or sites on the parcel.

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Property:        | Bloomington, File no. 054-0006  |
| Location:        | Louisa County, Virginia   |
| Photographer:    | Nancy W. Kraus  |
| Date:            | February 29, 2004   |
| Negative File:   | Virginia Department of Historic Resources<br>2801 Kensington Avenue<br>Richmond, Virginia |
| Negative Number: | 21327   |

Photo # 1 of 14: Site view looking north.

Photo # 2 of 14: South elevation of main house.

Photo # 3 of 14: Split-log wing, west façade.

Photo # 4 of 14: Double-shouldered chimney, west elevation.

Photo # 5 of 14: North elevation of main house.

Photo # 6 of 14: Roof and dormer detail.

Photo # 7 of 14: Fireplace mantel in front parlor of main house.

Photo # 8 of 14: Post-and-beam frame construction, west wing.

Photo # 9 of 14: Front entrance door, west wing.

Photo # 10 of 14: Corner fireplace mantel in bedroom-parlor of west wing.

Photo # 11 of 14: Tobacco barn.

Photo # 12 of 14: Tool shed.

Photo # 13 of 14: Horse barn.

Photo # 14 of 14: Corn crib.

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<sup>1</sup> An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape. Carl R. Lounsbury, editor. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1999.130-131.

<sup>2</sup> Poppeliers, John, S. Allen Chambers, and Nancy B. Schwartz. What Style Is It? Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1977, 4-5.

<sup>3</sup> Blumenson, John J.-G. Identifying American Architecture. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. 1981, 13.

<sup>4</sup> Based on interview with historical architect Douglas Harnsberger, March 4, 2004. Also see Glassie, Henry. Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975, 29. "The rules set the chimney at the center of a lateral wall..."

<sup>5</sup> Glassie, Henry. Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975, 110.

<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, early surveyors' plans for Bloomington do not include building footprints. Bloomington was never insured by the early owners, so no Mutual Assurance Society maps are available. However, increasing incremental tax assessments between 1787 and 1830 suggest that building construction occurred and caused proportional increase in taxation.

<sup>7</sup> Glassie, Henry. Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975, 121.

<sup>8</sup> An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape. Carl R. Lounsbury, editor. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1999, 207.

<sup>9</sup> Welch, Ed. "Technological System for Dating Country and Primitive Furniture." Journal of Antiques, August, 2002. Welch's synthesis is based on a synthesis of the research published by Jay D. Edwards and Tom Wells of Louisiana State University on historical nail technology.

<sup>10</sup> Glassie, Henry. Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975, 73.

<sup>11</sup> Cooke, Pattie G. P. Louisa and Louisa County. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publishing, 1997, 9.

<sup>12</sup> Sullivan, Jerry. "Louisa County, Virginia: Patent and Survey Abstracts and Placements." 2003 Direct Line Software: users.rcn.com/deeds/louisa.gz, October 5, 2003.

<sup>13</sup> Sullivan, Jerry. "Louisa County, Virginia: Patent and Survey Abstracts and Placements." 2003 Direct Line Software: users.rcn.com/deeds/louisa.gz, October 5, 2003.

<sup>14</sup> Harris, Malcolm H. "Early Quaker Families in Louisa." Louisa County Historical Magazine, Vol. 11, no. 1, summer, 1979, 7-24.

<sup>15</sup> Chisholm, Claudia A. and Ellen G. Lillie. Old Home Places of Louisa County. Orange, VA: Green Publisher's, Inc., 1979, 163.

<sup>16</sup> Cooke, Pattie G. P. Louisa and Louisa County. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publishing, 1997, 6.

<sup>17</sup> On October 11, 1811, David and his wife Mary sold 297 acres on Beaver Creek to Peyton J. Rawlins. The land was identified as "part of that tract deeded him by his father." Louisa County, Va. Deed Records, Book M, 22, October 14, 1811.

<sup>18</sup> "Thomas Johnson Type: Will." Louisa County, Virginia Probate Records, Book

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5, 123, October 10, 1803.

<sup>19</sup> Louisa County, Va. Deed Records, Book 5, 393, September 14, 1812.

<sup>20</sup> Louisa County, Va. Deed Records, Book M, 102, October 12, 1812.

<sup>21</sup> Louisa County, Va. Deed Records, Book N, 17, July 19, 1816.

<sup>22</sup> Henderson, Thomas Johnson. "Johnson Family Register." Louisa County Historical Magazine, Vol. 2, no. 2, December, 1970, 23-25.

<sup>23</sup> True, Ransom. "The Louisa Economy in the Years 1765-1812." Louisa County Historical Magazine, Vol. 7, no. 1, Summer, 1975, 19.

<sup>24</sup> Louisa County, Va. Probate Records, Book 5, 284, June 13, 1808.

<sup>25</sup> 1864 map of Louisa County in the archives at the Virginia Historical Society.

<sup>26</sup> Pate, Nancy S. "Bloomington." Works Progress Administration of Virginia: Historical Inventory Project, March 6, 1937, 3.

<sup>27</sup> Pate, Nancy S. "Bloomington." Works Progress Administration of Virginia: Historical Inventory Project, March 6, 1937, 3.